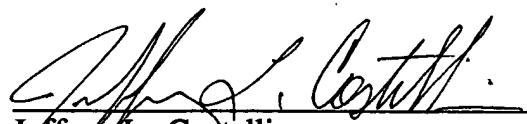


course, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the invention recited in this claim.

The Examiner merely objected to claim 29 as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In view thereof, new claims 32 and 33 are added representing claim 29 rewritten in independent form. Specifically, claim 32 includes all of the limitations of claim 29 and base claim 16, and claim 33 includes all of the limitations of claim 29 and base claim 23. In view of the above-noted amendments, cancellations and additions, only allowed claims or claims depending from allowed claims remain in this application.

Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn, that claims 17, 19-22 and 24-30 be considered allowable, that new claims 32 and 33 be considered allowable and that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes a conference would be beneficial in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey L. Costellia
Reg. No. 85,483

Sixbey, Friedman, Leedom & Ferguson, P.C.
2010 Corporate Ridge, Suite 600
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 790-9110